

A Conversation with the Candidates 2024



Democratic Candidate: Maurice “Mo” Green

Maurice “Mo” Green has strived to be a champion for public education in North Carolina throughout a professional career that has included being a school district superintendent, a chief executive for a large foundation that awards grants supporting public education and a school board attorney.

Mo served as the executive director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation from 2016-2023. Prior to ZSR, Mo served more than seven years as superintendent of Guilford County Schools – the third largest district in North Carolina. Before Guilford County Schools, Mo joined Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in 2001 as general counsel.



In 2006, he was named chief operating officer and later moved into the role of deputy superintendent. Mo began his career as a lawyer in private practice after doing two United States judicial clerkships. He has a bachelor's degree in political science and economics and a law degree, both from Duke University. Mo is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha and Sigma Pi Phi (the Boulé) fraternities. Mo is a longtime resident of North Carolina. He is married and has two adult children.

[Visit Mo Green's Campaign Website](#)

Responses to BEST NC 's Pre-Event Survey

If you could do one thing that would make a systemic difference for K-12 education at a cost of less than \$15M per year (\$0-10 per student), what would it be?

“I would end the Opportunity Scholarship program, which will use billions of taxpayer money to pay for private school tuition. The legislative action to remove the family income limit is particularly disastrous to our state's K-12 education budget, and may be a prelude to what occurred with Arizona's fiscal crisis. It is the wrong education priority to put money into taxpayer-funded private school vouchers, especially for the wealthy, while NC's public school system is woefully underfunded. By removing this state appropriation, there will be significantly more money available for our K-12 public schools, educators (who are woefully underpaid) and students.”

What do you believe is the most important responsibility of the NC State Superintendent?

“While the North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction has many important responsibilities, ranging from working on strategies and policies to help keep our public school students safe to advocating for additional funding to support various needs such as paying our public school educators more, I believe that the most important responsibility for this position is to work on strategies and policies that will provide each and every public school student with, at a minimum, a sound, basic education as required by the NC constitution, as interpreted by the NC Supreme Court.”

If you could snap your fingers and magically "fix" only one element of public education to make it as effective as possible, what would it be?

“If I only had one ‘fix,’ I would ensure that each and every student had highly effective teachers every school year. If every student had highly effective teachers, their learning gains would be immense and they would be prepared for whatever they choose for their next phase in life after graduating from high school. Whether the path entails going to college or entering the workforce, every student will have the skills needed to adapt to the ever-changing demands of the twenty-first century and to contribute positively to our society and economy. Highly effective teachers are the key.”